

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 16488 291722Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 /024 W
-----006019 291845Z /47

P 291918Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8514
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

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FRANKFURT FOR GAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AGAO, BBSR, ELTN, BE
SUBJECT: GAO STUDY OF URBAN RAILCAR MARKET

REF: A) BRUSSELS 16168 (NOTAL); B) STATE 215920 (NOTAL);
C) STATE 203417; D) BRUSSELS 16017

1. IN PREPARATION (REFTEL A) FOR VISIT OF GAO TEAM
SEPT. 11 AND 12, EMBASSY PROVIDED DETAILED INFORMATION
CONTAINED REFTELS B AND C TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS (BUYSSE) AS HE HAD REQUESTED (REFTEL D).
MINISTRY INFORMED US ON AUGUST 29 THAT IT HAD NO OBJEC-
TION IN PRINCIPLE TO GAO INQUIRY FOLLOWING OUR ASSURANCE
THAT STUDY WAS NOT GENERATED BY ONE FIRM'S COMPLAINT.

2. MINISTRY OFFICIAL HOWEVER QUESTIONS SEVERAL OF THE
APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED. RE APPOINTMENT WITH SNCB, BUYSSE
ASKS IF GAO SEEKS TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON RAILWAY'S
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NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS. IF HOWEVER (HE ASSUMES) THE
PURPOSE OF STUDY IS TO UNCOVER SUBSIDIES OR OTHER FORMS
OF GOVERNMENT AID, IT WOULD BE BEST TO TURN TO POLICY
LEVEL OF BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. SAME OBSERVATIONS ARE VALID
FOR BRUSSELS METRO SYSTEM. BUYSSE ALSO QUESTIONED
REASONING BEHIND NEED TO MEET WITH OBCE SINCE IT IS NOT
INVOLVED IN ANY FORMS OF GOVERNMENT AID TO BELGIAN

INDUSTRY. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE PRESUMED THAT GAO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING TRADE PROMOTION TECHNIQUES WITH OBCE.

3. BUYSSE SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT GAO SEEK APPOINTMENT INSTEAD WITH THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (MR. GAUTHY, INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT). THIS DEPARTMENT IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION AND THE PROVISION OF INCENTIVES. BUYSSE ALSO MENTIONED MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. THERE IS A DIVISION WITHIN THE TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION ENTITLED "SERVICE DES TRANSPORTS PAR RAIL" WHICH COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE.

4. EMBOFF PROMISED BUYSSE WE WOULD OBTAIN READING FROM WASHINGTON AND/OR FRANKFURT ON HIS SUGGESTIONS PRIOR TO GOING AHEAD IN SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARKETS, URBAN TRANSPORTATION, RAIL TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE16488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780352-1053
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780810/aaaaaibu.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f1b78457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ABF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 16168, 78 STATE 215920
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1539154
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAO STUDY OF URBAN RAILCAR MARKET
TAGS: AGAO, BBSR, ELTN, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f1b78457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014